UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/798
S/2000/218
17 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 50
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a letter dated 15 March 2000 addressed to you by A. Abdullah, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 50, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-34687 (E) 180300

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Annex

Letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

As you are well aware, responding positively to the demand for peace tal made by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Islamic State o Afghanistan, on 8 March 2000, attended in good faith the two-day peace talks, the first in a series, hosted by the OIC in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which were also attended by your Special Representative for Afghanistan, Francesc Vendre

The OIC delegation, attending separate meetings and discussing different issues with the two parties in Jeddah, laid special emphasis on the need for observing a moratorium on the fighting, citing the sanctity and importance of the approaching advent of the Hajj and the Eid al-Adha. The suggestion, thou not initialled, was embraced unilaterally and with no preconditions by the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

It is worth recalling that the Jeddah meeting came only days after the Taliban mercenaries had launched a renewed offensive, at which the Security Council on 3 March expressed its dismay and recalled the repeated demands by Council that the Afghan parties cease the fighting and resume negotiations un United Nations auspices, without delay and preconditions, in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council.

Against this background, however, the Taliban mercenaries, evidently tas by the ruling Pakistani ISI, appear to have been intent on pursuing their military option, for their unabated aerial and ground attacks on the Governme held territories have continued, to date.

Below is a brief record of the Pakistani-Taliban military operations whi have taken place since the Jeddah meeting:

(a) 10 March, 6 a.m. Afghanistan standard time (AST):

Pakistani-Taliban forces attacked northern Salang. The attack was repulsed within the course of a two-hour battle. Attackers sustain 60 casualties and left behind seven mortal remains;

(b) 11 March, 4 a.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban troops launched a multipronged attack on Surk Sang, Tamaam-Keraan, Zir Jallah, Maktab-e-Sartal, Rabeen, Kewch, an Bajgah areas around Dara-i-Suff, south-west of the province of Samangan, making some advances. The Government forces repelled the mercenaries from the areas later in the day;

(c) 13 March, 7-9 a.m. AST:

An attack by the Pakistani-Taliban on Ailam Bourka was pushed back;

(d) 14 March, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban mounted a cohesive attack on northern Salang, infiltrating the front lines. The offensive was forcefully smashed later the same day.

The ongoing intermittent onslaughts by the Pakistani-Taliban are believed to herald an up-coming all-out offensive by the Pakistani-Taliban, according to a battle plan discussed on 10 March at a joint meeting between the Taliban field commanders and a visiting senior Pakistani military corps in Kunduz province, intercepted by the State security services.

(Signed) A. ABDULLAH
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic State of Afghanistan

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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest over the actions taken today (15 March) by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to establish an extended security zone in northern Kosovska Mitrovica in the town quarter called Bosnjacka mahala. The Serbian civilians, gathered around the so-called Mali most (Little Bridge), were assailed with stun grenades and tear gas. As a consequence, 16 of them were injured, two seriously. Mrs. Olivera Matic had her left foot amputated, while Mr. Dragan Pelevic had a heel smashed.

By these actions KFOR continues to assist ethnic Albanian terrorists and extremists in putting pressure on the Serbian population to move out of Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, aimed at ethnically cleansing it.

The said actions of KFOR, carried out in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and runs counter to their mandates. Instead of creating a secure environment and freedom of movement for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, KFOR and UNMIK continue to function as catalysts of the separatist cause of Albanian terrorists and extremists, de facto assisting them in the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other non-Albanians from northern Kosovska Mitrovica as well.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Security Council to take urgent and resolute steps to ensure minimum security and relatively normal living conditions to the Serbian population in Kosovska Mitrovica, the last Serbian refuge in Kosovo and Metohija, since KFOR and UNMIK failed to provide any other during their nine-month presence in this Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i